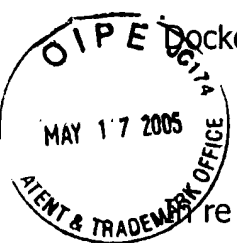


*[Handwritten signature]*



Docket No. 12014-0022

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Re Application of:

TAKEUCHI et al.

Serial No.: 10/691,667

Art Unit: 1746

Filing Date: October 24, 2003

Examiner: Carrillo, B. S.

For: Continuous Pickling Method and Continuous Pickling Apparatus

**AMENDMENT**

Commissioner of Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated February 22, 2005, please amend the application as follows: